## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended):** An image coding method comprising:

estimating motion vectors between an input image to be coded and a reference image;

synthesizing a prediction image of the input image using the motion vectors and the reference image;

generating a difference image by calculating a difference between the input image and the prediction image; and

outputting coded information of the input image including information related to the difference image and the motion vectors,

wherein said synthesizing the prediction image includes calculating intensity values at points where no pixels actually exist in the reference image by interpolation,

wherein said interpolation is done according to information specifying a positive rounding method or a negative rounding method when a current frame of the input image coded as is a P frame, and

wherein said interpolation is done using a predetermined rounding method which is a positive rounding method or a negative rounding method when the current frame of the input image is coded as a B frame.

**Claim 2 (Original):** An image coding method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined rounding method is a positive rounding method.

**Claims 3-6 (Cancelled):**